



**West Virginia University**

**Office of the President**

**VIA FACSIMILE 202-228-3796**

**Attention: Anna Shopen**

**October 13, 2006**

**The Honorable Tom Coburn  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management  
United States Senate  
439 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510**

**Re: July 27, 2006 Letter  
Response to Requests for Funding Information**

**Dear Senator Coburn:**

**This letter responds to your request of July 27, 2006 concerning congressional directed funding to West Virginia University (WVU).**

**During the years 2000 through 2005, externally sponsored programs at WVU have increased by almost 100%. Most of this funding has been gained competitively.**

**WVU carefully analyzes its priorities, mission, and capabilities when establishing its research agenda and seeks funding accordingly from a variety of sources including competitive grants, corporate and other private funding, and in select cases congressionally directed sources. WVU's Vice President for Research and Economic Development is charged with identifying possible funding sources for research, whether competitively obtained, congressionally directed, or derived from private sources. In most cases, congressionally directed funds are for projects for which there is no competitive funding available. The Vice President for Research and Economic Development is also responsible for communicating our priorities in this regard.**

**Congressional funding has an enormous economic impact both directly and through roll-down multiplier effects in an otherwise economically limited state. We focus our research programs on increasing our national competitiveness. The congressionally directed funding provides infrastructure and resource assistance for us to attain our mission as the state's flagship institution and an engine for economic development in the state. Our programs support national goals in research, service, and education.**

**One outcome illustrating successes attained through directed funding is the WVU Forensic Science Initiative (FSI). The WVU FSI played a key role in the development of the special publication by the National Institute for Justice, *Education and Training in Forensic Science*, which has been adopted as the basis for accrediting forensic academic**

The Honorable Tom Coburn  
October 13, 2006  
Page 2

programs by the American Academy of Forensic Science. The primary mission of this program is to provide and support the training and development of forensic professionals in public and private agencies. WVU's FSI formed partnerships with the FBI, ATF, WV State Police Laboratory and other forensic agencies to improve the science behind modern crime investigations. On the national level, WVU has advanced the field of forensic science through research and development, as well as acting as a resource for the national forensic science community. To accompany the growth of the FSI program, the Forensics and Investigative Science program, which is the academic component of the WVU FSI, is one of the eleven programs in the U.S., accredited by the Forensic Science Educational Program Accreditation Commission. This program encompasses almost every College at WVU, creating nine FSI funded research projects in the various colleges. Forensic research at WVU has now reached the stage where the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Engineering, and Business and Economics have all received competitive forensic research funding. The accomplishments and growth of the WVU FSI program have attracted students from nearly every state in the U.S. and seven countries.

Another example of the success of congressionally directed funding to WVU is the WVU Prevention Research Center (PRC). Although the PRC was initially funded through a directed appropriation from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), this program is now competitively funded and ranks among the most outstanding prevention research centers within the CDC network. The PRC has been recognized by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the U.S. Department of Justice with an *Exemplary Program* designation for our program called "Not On Tobacco (N-O-T)." WVU has also been recognized by the Mental Health Services Administration of the Department of Health and Human Services as a model program for Substance Abuse. We developed a tobacco use cessation program for teens that has gained both national and international attention. This program is particularly relevant to West Virginia since tobacco use still remains the single most preventable cause of morbidity and mortality for our citizens. Nationally, tobacco use accounts for 1 in 5 deaths or 400,000 premature deaths every year. Heart disease is the leading cause of premature death in those 45-65 years old, with eighty percent of these deaths linked to tobacco use. This exemplary program would not exist if it were not for the directed funding from CDC.

Additional WVU programs that were partially funded as a congressionally directed initiative are two research facilities currently under construction. The researchers who will work in these facilities are investigating a range of disease specific areas that are major national issues, including Alzheimer's disease, memory disorders, cardiovascular disease, cancer, and diabetes. The research scientists who will work in these facilities will be expected to fund their specific research projects by obtaining

The Honorable Tom Coburn

October 13, 2006

Page 3

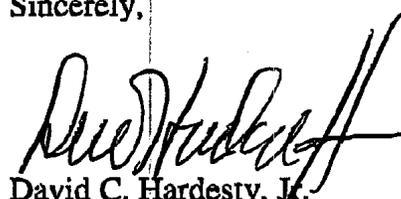
funding from agencies and foundations based on a nationally competitive, peer-review process.

WVU works directly with and is accountable to the funding agencies from which funding is derived. Federal program managers for the projects provide oversight for each award. The WVU Research Office provides internal oversight for the projects supported through congressional directed funding. We review all of our programs to ensure quality and successful outcomes.

Congressionally directed funding has contributed to WVU not only through continued research and development of new innovations and ideas, but also by providing the infrastructure, equipment, and other tools necessary to conduct such research and service projects. Together with other sources of research funding, these resources allow us to achieve state-of-the-art status so that we can be competitive in selected fields of research. We now engage in interdisciplinary collaborative programs with faculty on our own campus and with other institutions that otherwise would not have taken place without the congressional funding.

We believe that research and other projects at WVU, from all funding sources, have allowed WVU to grow and have provided West Virginians and the nation with high quality education, training, and other important service programs.

Sincerely,



David C. Hardesty, Jr.  
President